

the
macvalley

Voice

VOL. 5 NO. 12

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACVALLEY USERS GROUP

DECEMBER 1989

Adobe launches a preemptive strike in the font wars



by Ken Gruberman

Most of you who are reading this have, by now, either heard of *Adobe Type Manager* (ATM), are currently using it, or are thinking of buying it. This simple fact is indicative of how aggressive Adobe has been in advertising the product, and more importantly, how much the subject of fonts has been on the minds of both seasoned and neophyte Mac users lately. This subject is not likely to dwindle in popularity over the next several months; rather, as the release date for System 7 draws ever closer, it will become even more pervasive in the hearts and minds of MacAmerica. And ATM will be right in the thick of it.

ATM...is a relatively inexpensive (\$99 retail) software program that promises to give ImageWriter owners "letter quality" output...

Is It from Adobe or First Interstate?

For those of you who haven't been keeping up with current Mac events as much as you would like, ATM, not to be confused with the card your bank gives you to get money from machines, is a relatively inexpensive (\$99 retail) software program that promises to give ImageWriter owners "letter quality" output, as well as give a more accurate screen display when using word processing programs or any other program that deals with letters on the Mac

screen. The implication is staggering: the lowly ImageWriter producing printed pages that look almost as good as its enormously more expensive cousin, the LaserWriter, and just as good as the highbrow LQ printers! It's right there in the ATM ad: "...[it will] enable you to produce the kind of high quality text from your ImageWriter you thought only came out of a laser printer." Think of it: no more trips to the service bureau to get that all-important document printed as nicely as possible, and no more begging your

LaserWriter-owning friends to let you use the machine "just one more time." Free at last, free at last, oh Lord our ImageWriters are free at last!

As is so often the case, however, reality has once again reared its ugly head. ATM is not the godsend its makers would

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Next Meeting:
December 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Cliff Johnson of
Miles Computing
(see map page 16)

These people oughta know

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Adobe Type Manager

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have us think it is, but is rather a modest tool that lets Macintosh users more accurately manipulate fonts, especially large sizes of fonts, on the screen, and ImageWriter users experience some degree of improvement on their printed output, depending on the font, size and style used. That's it. Any other imagined use of the program is dubious, at best. At its worst, it's an outright con.

What's it all about, Adobe?

ATM is a CDEV, a program that resides in the System Folder and shows up on the Control Panel. It is relatively easy to install — just copy over the CDEV and the appropriate driver, one for 68000 machines, the other for 68020/030 machines, and you're in business. Oh yes, one other thing, you must also have in your System Folder a printer font for *every screen font you use*, in order to gain the full benefit of ATM. ATM intercepts QuickDraw font requests and generates the screen bitmaps from a PostScript outline font with the corresponding improvement in quality as the ImageWriter also draws from the improved image. This concept has proven to be most confusing to many ImageWriter owners who have never dealt with the concept of two sets of fonts and don't understand what the difference between them is. For LaserWriter owners, there is no improvement on the page, just the screen, since LaserWriters already use the printer font scheme.

The ATM documentation doesn't do much to help explain the situation either. As a matter of fact, I believe that the reason the phones are ringing off the hook at Adobe are due, for the most part, to their misleading ads and vague documentation. Where have we heard this before? I'll go one step further: I think the ads are one of

the biggest fake-outs I've seen in recent memory, using carefully chosen words to give the consumer the impression that ATM will give low-quality printers the ability to mimic the high-priced spread. The first, splashy ad for ATM came out a few months ago. You might have seen it: a sample ImageWriter page bound into the major Mac magazines with the lurid headline, "ImageWriter Users Shouldn't Look At This... (in hugely jagged type) And Now They Don't Have To!" (in clean, perfect-looking type). The latest ads, perhaps in response to all the howling from dissatisfied customers, play down the ImageWriter angle somewhat. So, in response to this, I'm going to use the actual hyperbole-laden, glitzy ATM ad-copy to guide the rest of this article and to determine the actual strengths and weaknesses of the program... a kind of "Point/Counterpoint" format as it were, but without Dan Aykroyd and Jane Curtin.

Don't push, there's enough hype here for all of you

First up: the afore-mentioned "easy installation" issue.

"...because, if you've got a minute, you can install Adobe Type Manager. Just a few clicks of your mouse and it's done."

Sounds easy enough. But, as I mentioned earlier, you must have both *printer* and *screen* fonts installed for the process to work correctly, and this takes up disk space. If you've got as many fonts as I do, a *lot* of disk space. Some people discovered that they didn't have enough space to effectively use ATM. Continuing on the same subject:

"...to help you make your decision fast, we've included high-quality outline versions of the 13 most popular fonts with every copy of Adobe Type Manager."

Sounds generous enough. But once again, the truth is a little hazier. In actual-

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The MacValley Voice

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**January Deadline:
December 7**

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Vance Jones

Trials and Tribulations

Ah, the vicissitudes of operating the MacValley Users Group are quite numerous, indeed! Since the November *Voice* was delayed until after the November meeting, I find it incumbent upon myself to report on both the October and November events, so here goes...

October: At our annual elections, all five directors (Dave Lagerson, Bob Frankwick, Shirley Ulling, Helen Lippman, and Robert Wright), were returned to office; they each agreed to serve in the same capacity as before. These five, plus the many others who make up the entire "working board" of MacValley, all serve without pay so that you and I may benefit from the fruits of their labors.

Our "secret" October presentation turned out to be *Prodigy for the Macintosh*, the new flat-rate online service from IBM and Sears. Sam Anderson and the rest of the crew from *Prodigy* made an excellent presentation while furnishing applications for each of us to complete in order to receive a copy of the software FREE as well as a three month FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP of *Prodigy* (if that won't get us hooked, nothing will). I just received mine via UPS today. For those who may have missed out on this tremendous offer for one reason or another, you might be able to still qualify for the free software and a 1 month

trial; try calling 1-800-822-6922 x642 and tell them you're a MacValley Member. If asked for a postcard number, tell them "10142."

In addition, the Grand Prize in our RAFFLE which was *Prodigy*, a three month's free trial, and a Hayes 2400 bps modem, was won by Marty Firestein. Other lucky winners were: Ken Gruberman (a box of Sony DS disks); Helen Lippman (a 4-color ribbon); Richard Nerone (a Mac Kit, consisting of a *Prodigy* mouse pad, a black ribbon, and the *Mastering the Macintosh* manual); John Murphy (a box of CenTech DS color-coded disks); and the final prize was a free toner cartridge recharge from Laser Cartridge Services, but THAT WAS STOLEN before the drawing. Still, we thank the donors and cheer the winners.

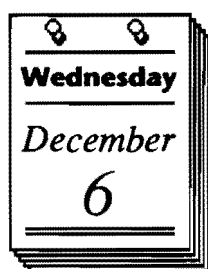
November: Mark Galvin, of Working Software, made it down okay from Santa Cruz and appeared to be... unshaken (despite the recent you-know-what up there). Mark showed us his company's entire line: *Spellswell*, *Lookup*, *Findswell*,

Webb (a *Prodigy* Personal Service Startup Kit—three months free). This raffle was almost like Christmas, and we thank our donors profusely, while we hooray the winners. Once again, a special thank-you goes to the indefatigable Mark Galvin, one of MacValley's best friends, for leaving the after shocks behind and spending a night with us in (relative) safety.

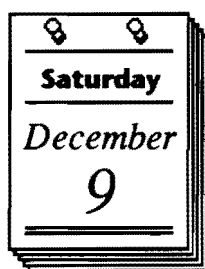
December 6: That zany from Miles Computing, that fool of fools who brought us *Fool's Errand*, Cliff Johnson the author, will show us *The Puzzle Gallery—At the Carnival*. In our September newsletter, Ken Gruberman reported that he has impressed more people with the color and sound of his new Mac IIcx by showing them this new game than by showing them *Freehand*. Cliff Johnson is a very entertaining presenter...should be lots of fun for everyone, especially since our own "MacValley Caterer," Barbara King, has agreed to again preside over the Christmas refreshments. Come join our Christmastime Carnival and Puzzle over the latest and

greatest in the Decked Halls of Macdom.

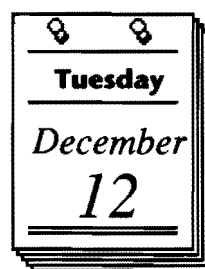
Arnold Woodworth, the "dean" of MacAdemy, wishes us to convey to you the joyous news that there wbe a featured instructional class for December 9, as well as a novice class. The "novice" class is from 11AM-1PM for you who could use a little help with Mac basics. Then from 1-3PM,



General Meeting:
Cliff Johnson
Miles Computing
Wilkinson Senior Center
8956 Vanalden,
Northridge



MacAdemy:
Novice class for
beginners
11am - 1pm
Microsoft Word 4.0:
1pm - 3pm



MacValley Board of Directors Meeting:
7pm - 9:30pm
Thomas Realty
150 E. Olive
Burbank

QuickLetter, and their latest little jewel, *MacGrammar*. Not only did our members seem to enjoy Mark's presentation, but each of the programs was donated as a Grand Prize in our RAFFLE. *Lookup* was taken by Mike Bushler, *Spellswell* by Hal Curtis, *Findswell* by Pieter Breitner, and *QuickLetter*, which also included *Spellswell*, by Alice Williams. *MacGrammar* was still in beta version, so that was not included. Additional winners were: Marty Safir (a 4-color ribbon); Alice Williams again (this time taking a box of CenTech DS color-coded disks); Mark Lamken (also a box of CenTech DS color-coded disks); and Mike

Ken Gruberman has agreed to share his knowledge of MS Word 4.0 with you. As always, sign up at the membership meeting for either class, and consult the back page of this newsletter for directions. Then bring your Mac, along with appropriate software and a couple of blank floppy work disks.

And now, I'd like to leave you all with this thought: "There are two kinds of people in this world... those who think there are two kinds of people, and those who don't."—Anonymous. Have yourself a Merry Christmas, and/or Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year! Hope to see you at the meeting.

Hey, I've been around a couple of years — know what I mean?

I have been a MacValley member long enough to know there are only two kinds of people who attend these monthly meetings: those who have already bought or plan to buy the software that this month's guest is hawking (in the question-and-answer session we hope some member will ask the question we are too shy or confused to ask) and, the type who can read the "Voice" of MacWisdom in the Valley from cover to cover and never have to ask anybody to explain what in the hell it means.

If you are the *former*, you are one of my kind of people, the sort of people the latter look on with kindness and call "MacTimid" but, in fact, one that the latter, the other, wiser Mac users might just call "MacLazy."

One sure sign that you are among the *former* might be inferred from your clever way of turning so much of the world into "MacThis and MacThat," so that other MacValley-ites cannot be blamed for thinking you are a MacA—hole.

In my case, I believe my sense of insecurity and inadequacy has very little to do with actual computing and a great deal to do with the fact that I use my SE (20MB/HD, 4MB/RAM) mostly for word processing, managing small personal and company accounts and the occasional game or distraction that can be shared by my seven-year old twins.

So, I use my computer equivalent of an elephant gun to mince verbiage, crunch a few innocent and unimpressive numbers, and to impress two still impressionable

children — what am I going to do when they easily join the ranks of the *latters* (as children seem to do) and I have to fear them, too?

But, until they find out how much I don't know about my Mac, and how I suffer from the all-too-common computer-novice fear of trying to find out more about how the damned thing works, (*don't touch it!... you might start a fire! Ed.*) my sense of MacInadequacy is never greater than

My sense of MacInadequacy is never greater than when I attend the monthly meetings.

Are you a former or a latter?

by Joseph Benti

when I attend the monthly meetings. That is when I am in the company of men and women who obviously know and appreciate all there is to know about the vast potential and immense power of these beautiful weapons that have been put into our hands.

After all, with *latters*, like Lagerson and Woodworth, up there belting out their favorite tunes, there is no way that people like me (and, maybe, you) are going to express our innermost computer-driven fears and torments — I ain't going to look foolish in front of those guys, no way!

Well, the truth is that we suffer from humanity's greatest fear, the fear of getting up in front of others and proving we're the lunkheads they think we are.

But, damn. Somebody at those meetings must know how to get Microsoft Word to do what my gut tells me it can do but my brain cannot fathom or locate in the documentation; or, there must be a better way to get familiar with and use Prodigy than I have been discovering on my own, which is to say, not much.

If we don't pipe up, we will continue to feel left out...

So what if all the tests confirm that we are flaming literates! Hell. Just because a person can read Tolstoi's "War and Peace" and understand it, that does not mean we can read the "Macintosh Bible" and tell the difference between INIT and CDEV. (CDEV found INIT in the bullrushes, right? Or was it the lost tribe of Nairnans?)

As one of the *former*, Tolstoi I know. Well, I saw the movie. But, my guess is that most of the people who write these articles and speak at the meetings are a bunch of *latters*, right?

Isn't it about time we *formers* awake from our slumbers?

As that poet for our time Robin Williams says, "*Carpe Deum! Seize the day!*" If we don't, the elephants will continue to trample our mouses... mice?

If we don't pipe up, we will continue to feel left out, neglected, and probably only come to those meetings that seem to have something that interests us while ignoring the others.

The truth is, every meeting can be of value if we *formers* let the *latters* know that we are not as smart or as smug as we think *they* are.

I am going to be listening for you at the next meeting. And say, do me a favor. Would you ask why you have to turn off MultiFinder every time you...

Oh, never mind.

I'll ask that one myself.

Mr. Benti has been electronically connected for 35 years, mostly in Los Angeles, with stints as anchor of the "CBS Morning News with Joseph Benti" (1966-1970), and anchor at KABC (1971-1972) and KCBS (1973-1979). In 1970, he was almost bureau chief of the CBS Moscow Bureau (a long, long story). He did work as a columnist for the recently deceased Los Angeles Herald Examiner (1980-1981), was the producer/host for Walter Cronkite's PBS series "Why in the World," and is one of the owners of Four Point Entertainment, a television production company he co-founded in 1984.

Presently, Benti does daily commentaries on KJOI (Touch 98.7).

Despite all his familiarity with the great newsmakers of our day, Benti is still intimidated by his nice, friendly Macintosh SE. Isn't life wonderful? Ed.



Tom Casacky

Open your wallet and say "ahh"

HyperCard 2.0, rumored to arrive in late spring '90, is expected to feature standard resizable Mac windows, multiple and styled fonts within text fields, as many as 50 new commands, a built-in incremental compiler that will run in the background, faster and more flexible XCMD's and XFCN's running in the main event loop, and words that can be used as a button within a scrolling field (a special style can be assigned to the button words to make it identifiable to users)... but no color because it would decrease performance; color will still be supported through XCMD's... **The next Mac** (no pun intended), to debut in March at the Smithsonian, will allegedly have six slots, a 68030 processor running at 33 or 40 Mhz, direct memory access on the SCSI bus, parity RAM support, 512K of ROM, optimized serial and Apple Desktop Bus I/O chips, and a price tag of \$10-\$12,000. This screamer is currently dubbed the "F-19" but will probably be called the IIxi; it will run 30-100% faster than the IICI... **Apple is also said to be developing** a "headless" SE/30, a monitor-less CPU the size of an external hard disk with one Direct (and no NuBus) Slot and on-board eight-bit color... **TypeAlign** is a DA that allows users of Adobe Type Manager to rotate, skew, kern and colorize type on screen and in hard copy output on any ATM-compatible PostScript or QuickDraw printer... **Thanks to trademark problems**, Red Ryder version 11 will now be known as White Knight 11. Upgraders must include their original master disk, along with \$35 (for owners of versions 10x) or \$50 (for owners of earlier versions) ... **ParaFont** is a \$99 utility that modifies Adobe fonts, allowing users to create

fractions, ligatures, small caps, and slanted, stretched and compressed characters... **If you need a good screen capture utility** and are confused by all the contenders for your attention, relax and have a look at QuickShot 2.1 from Boston Companies; it's got it all, folks... **Connectix has cut the price** of their Virtual 2.0 software to \$199, or \$275 when bundled with a 68851 PMMU. Mac II owners with enough contiguous hard disk space can get a jump on some of System 7.0's features with up to 14 MB of Virtual memory, for the price of two or three MB of chips... **68851 hunters** should contact Orvac Electronics at (714) 871-1020 for the best deals around today... **Fanatics?** A recent poll revealed that 70% of MacWEEK subscribers use a Mac both at work and at home... **The Apple Customer Relations phone number** for inquiries about reimbursement for repairs to defective Quantum drives is (408) 252-

2775... **What to get your favorite Macaholic who has everything?** How about MacFM, an FM tuner on a board (which fits in a NuBus slot), allowing you to listen to music or news in the background without any attention from the

user or the Mac's processor; a DA provides all of the functions available on a good audio tuner... **The current version (2.0B9) of the Boomerang INIT** fixes a number of earlier problems... **A subtly improved version 1.1 of FileMaker II** is free to registered owners; same thing goes for MacWrite 1.1 which supports the fractional widths that Adobe ATM needs to work properly... Do you have a LaserWriter, or access to one? **Bitstream desperately wants to be your font company.** Their PostScript-compatible library is huge, and they'll let you have—for free—two of their many fonts to play with. Call (800) 848-8220, extension 609, for two disks: one contains Century Schoolbook (just like Adobe's New Century Schoolbook that ships with Apple laser printers), the other contains a lighter and more elegant font called Schneidler (awful name, but very handy for informal stuff). The price is right... **In the same vein**, note that Adobe

Type Manager does not work with Bitstream fonts—yet... **Microtek's MSF-300Z** provides 300 dpi scanning in monochrome, eight-bit gray scale and 24-bit color modes. Images can be scaled from 25% to 400%; SuperPaint 2.0, Digital Darkroom and PhotoMacEdit all are included with the scanner. Suggested retail is \$2695... Based on 1988 figures, **the New York area claims the highest number of Macs in the US** with 260,000 units, followed by Los Angeles at 160,000, San Francisco at 136,000, Chicago at 96,000 and Boston at 82,000... **Microsoft** is still trying to figure out how to remove the spreadsheet bug in Works 2.00a: The insect attacks when users try to print their worksheets with cell comments displayed (the comments are displayed in the printout, but they're attached to the wrong cells)... meanwhile, Microsoft's Excel 2.2 has finally sprayed enough Raid on itself to

become 2.2a; no more crashes on TOPS networks, among other fixes... the upgrade's for free, just call 'em... **Mirror Technology** has announced that, because their own line of hard drives rarely need fixing, their technical repair department will now repair

drives and recover data from their competitors' machines. Their program is targeted particularly at owners of Apple and Jasmine drives. Call them at (612) 633-2105 if your drive is tormenting you... **To speed up SuperCard**, use draw (object-oriented) graphics instead of bit maps whenever possible. They'll load faster, be saved faster, be animated faster, and take up less disk space. Like HyperCard, SuperCard generally operated much faster when running a locked project. Unlike HyperCard, the only way to lock a project is in the Finder.

The Voice welcomes new Tips & Tidbits columnist Tom Casacky to the fold. We've missed this most valuable part of our publication since Ms. Spalding bowed out, and it benefits us all to have this column back. So, if you've heard any good hardware or software gossip out there, tell Tom "T & T" Casacky about it! Ed.

Bitstream
desperately wants to
be your font company.
...they'll let you
have—for free—two
of their many fonts to
play with.

When 2 tribes go to war

continued from page 2

ity, there are only 4 *typefaces* included: Times, Helvetica, Courier, and Symbol. There are four *fonts* for the first three typefaces: Roman, Italic, Bold, and Bold Italic, while Symbol has just one, which adds up to 13. This ploy takes advantage of the public's continuing confusion between the terms *font* and *typeface*. To be fair, Adobe did not invent this confusion, but certainly profits by it here. One other thing: if you want the "Plus Pack," which contains the rest of the built-in fonts used by the modern LaserWriter family, you'll have to pay \$198. You need this because ATM does not travel across an AppleTalk network. It needs printer fonts to be *physically* present in the System Folder of your hard disk. Fonts that are on internal ROM chips inside a LaserWriter, or that reside on a hard disk attached to a LaserWriter, cannot be accessed. And here we

encounter a bit of philosophical philandering. You see, when you buy a LaserWriter, a portion of the purchase price gets sent to Adobe to pay for the licensing fees on those internal PostScript fonts, so when you buy either ATM or the Plus Pack, you are, in essence, *paying twice* for the same thing. Not cricket, chaps, not cricket at all.

Taking ATM at its Word

Here's one of my favorites:

"...that's because Adobe Type Manager is compatible with virtually all major Macintosh software..."

There's that indispensable word again: *virtually*. What would ad people do without it? The stunning fact is that ATM is not

The problem is that ATM needs "fractional widths" in order to function correctly, a fact not mentioned in the ads, or in the documentation until the very end.

fully compatible with the biggest selling word-processing program on the market: Microsoft Word 4.0. What's even more amazing is that the screen shot in one of the ads show an ATM example running on

Word... and not very well, either! Even though the outlines of the large letters are beautifully drawn, the letterspacing itself is too close in some places, too far in others. This is not readily apparent because the large display type has been photographically reduced to fit

into the ad.

The problem is that ATM needs "fractional widths" in order to function correctly, a fact not mentioned in the ads,

Of fonts and fortunes

The issue of fonts in general has always caused some degree of confusion to a Mac owner at one time in his or her life. Also, the reason for ATM's creation has its roots in the politics of corporate positioning as well as technological advancement, and the understanding of these issues is paramount if we are to gain insight into what has become known colloquially as the "font wars," in which ATM is the first salvo.

Mem'ries...light the corners of my Mac

When the Mac started life in 1984, it created the images on its screen using "QuickDraw," the heart of the Mac operating system. QuickDraw rendered graphics and type on the screen at the available screen resolution of 72 dots per inch. With type, individual screen representations of each

size and style had been created separately and then loaded into the system. These have come to be known as "screen fonts." The only printing device available to the early Mac user was the ImageWriter I, which printed pretty much a copy of what it saw on the screen, due again to the capabilities of QuickDraw.

At that time, the largest size screen font you could use was 24 point. Now, here was the rub: If your software allowed you to specify, say, 48 point size type on the screen, then what you would get would be 24 point type magnified two hundred percent, complete with "stair-stepping," which is also known as the infamous "jaggies." Larger point sizes would be even more distorted-looking on screen. And, on paper, it would look exactly the same as on screen, because the ImageWriter driver utility would interpret it that way, with one

exception: when using 9 point or 12 point type in "best" mode on the ImageWriter, a routine would allow the printer to utilize the screen font at twice the size, 18 and

24 points respectively, and print at twice the resolution (144 dots per inch) to provide clean-looking printed 9 and 12 point type.

Apple sees the (laser) light

In 1985, Apple brought us the LaserWriter, a 300 dots per inch (DPI) printer that uses the page description language invented by Adobe called PostScript™, and, along with page makeup programs, desktop publishing was born. When printing, PostScript uses complex mathematical formulae to describe the *outline* of the letter rather than using the image from the screen. This mathematical information resides in what are known as "printer fonts," which dwell, along with the corresponding screen fonts, in the System Folder. (If you're a *Suitcase* or *Master Juggler* user, they can reside in a folder of their own.) Some of them also dwell inside the LaserWriter itself, in ROM chips. If a LaserWriter has a font in its internal ROM, it doesn't need to have the printer font in the System Folder. Also, inside each LaserWriter or Adobe PostScript-based printer is a PostScript board, or "raster image processor," (RIP) that is licensed from Adobe.

When you print a document on a

The issue of fonts in general has always caused some degree of confusion to a Mac owner

or in the documentation until the very end. Most programs that deal with words, like *PageMaker* and *MacWrite II* v1.1, support fractional widths automatically, but *Word* does *not* support fractional widths through the ImageWriter driver (a fault of Microsoft's the Adobe people say).

While Microsoft mulls over their options in this matter, an unauthorized patch to *Word* 4.0 is floating around the major online services. Initial reports on the efficacy of this patch are mixed; some ImageWriter owners think that it makes text look worse instead of better, while others report a marked improvement.

As one of our members, Robert Dixon, found out the hard way, Adobe knew of this problem yet never mentioned it in either the documentation or in a "Read Me" file. I'd like to think of Robert as one of the first "casualties" of the font wars, because this matter managed to "kill" about 2 days of Robert's valuable time while he tore his hair out (what little of it that's left)

trying to figure out what he had been doing wrong.

Fork over the cache

And now, on to how ATM works with different Mac models:

"...Despite all this, Adobe Type Manager doesn't demand any additional memory requirements. In fact, every Macintosh—from a Plus to a IICx—is ready to take advantage of its unique capabilities."

True. ATM doesn't demand any additional memory requirements, but *you'll* demand more memory if you're serious about performance, which slows down markedly in older Mac machines. This is because ATM literally "draws" the fonts on the screen the first time you call them up. From then on, as long as the Mac isn't turned off, when a previously used font is used again the display reacts as quickly as it used to. This process is accomplished through allocating RAM memory to the

"font cache" which is configured through the settings area in the ATM Control Panel document.

I use a IICx with 8MB internal memory, so I have the largesse to devote an entire *megabyte* just to ATM. Needless to say, I don't notice any slowdown. But Mac Plus owners, running ATM with only 96k in the font cache, the minimum requirement, experience a noticeable slowdown when calling on a font for the first time. Another swipe at the low-end masses: even when the whole font is cached, the rate at which the screen redraws itself is determined by the speed of the processor (CPU) inside the Mac, so older machines are definitely at risk of being thrown in the trash by irate ATM users who can't take the wait anymore.

Islands in the (bit)stream

More trouble for ATM:

"...[it] also works with every Adobe

continued on page 12

LaserWriter, and you see the "preparing data" message appear in the print dialog box, that is what's happening — the data from your screen is being converted, via the LaserWriter and Laser Prep utilities in your system folder, into PostScript information that the LaserWriter understands and... voila, out comes beautiful, sharp, accurately printed material.

This system has also caused certain problems, problems that LaserWriter owners have come to live with. Because of the disparity between 72 and 300 dots per inch, things don't look quite the same on the screen as they do on the printed page. However, the quality of the printed page has surpassed anything that has come before in the short history of personal computers. It's just that the screen representation with its jaggies, especially in large font sizes, is far off the mark. This phenomenon is also known as WYSI-MOLWYG: What You See Is More or Less What You Get. It's something that can be annoying at times, not so much at others.

Trouble in paradise

So, for the past 5 years, Apple has been paying hefty royalties to Adobe for the use of PostScript, while reaping the huge rewards that came from defining the desktop publishing industry. Everything seemed to be working fine, even though Adobe refused to share certain font outlining secrets, namely "hinting," with other typeface manufacturers, and has been accused of charging high prices for its typeface families. It's what companies in the "catbird seat" have a tendency to do... just look at Apple's pricing policies!

And then one day, it seems that Adobe crossed the line. They proposed that Apple incorporate into the Mac operating system its newly developed Display PostScript™ screen drawing routines instead of good ol' QuickDraw, the logic being that true WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) could finally be implemented. Apple saw this as another attempt by Adobe to control the company's destiny even more than

before, so plans were set in motion. Apple quickly sold all of its Adobe stock, while Adobe sold Display PostScript to Steve Jobs' NeXT computer, which now uses it as its standard screen display system. Suddenly, the bombshell: Apple announced to unsuspecting attendees of the last Seybold Convention that, with System 7, they would implement their own outline font technology which was being developed in conjunction with last year's arch-rivals (and litigants) Microsoft in exchange for a postscript clone! Soon, expensive PostScript-compatible printers would no longer be needed in order to get the famous Mac look, it was announced; the new font technology, dubbed *Royal*, would provide satisfactory results with *any* printer.

The Apple/Adobe marriage was off, and the "font wars" began. Every man for himself and let the fonts fall where they may. Adobe had been developing a product similar to Apple's concept for some time *before* the revelatory Apple announcement, and realized that they could do an "end run" around Apple's high-minded plans if they could get the product out before System 7's release. The result: ATM.—KG

Apple has been paying hefty royalties to Adobe for the use of PostScript...



Tom Pitts

Dreams of sugar-plum disk fairies

Leave the (disk) driving to us

At some point in the movie *Star Wars* Han Solo says to Luke Skywalker, "I've seen a lot of stuff, kid." That's how I feel about Mac shareware. Suffering through innumerable disk crashes (I use floppies for all testing, as dictated by experience) one comes to appreciate the good stuff and to recognize very quickly the junk. I have developed a very quick trigger finger for trashing anything that even hints at instability. I'm getting to the point where I will no longer tolerate an awkward, "un-Macish" interface. In fact, this is so true that the disk of the month for December is blank! (*Go to the window on your Mac screen! Go to the window and yell "we're mad as hell, and we're not going to take inelegant interfaces anymore! Ed."*)

Of course, I'm exaggerating a bit, for the disk, *Lets Do December*, is filled with some really nice items. Here's a brief overview of the "stuff" that survived my wrathful "Delete" key!

Art — A couple of holiday art samplers (PAINT format) are included. Don't forget the MacValley PD Library's collection of nice holiday art, also.

Desk Zap — DeskZap is a useful disk/file management utility in a DA.

Disk Timer — Test out your hardware with this new version.

Euchre 3.1 — Play a nice, pretty card game that you can't pronounce. It's no relation to Bob Uecker, the baseball personality, despite the rumors to the contrary.

Fade to Black — This popular screen saver has been upgraded.

Hedges 1.1 — You can bet on Hedges for some fun in a DA game.

Information — Take a look at the TEXT files in this folder. There's an article on making icons and descriptions of the upcoming release v. 1.1 of Red Ryder, nee White Knight.

MiniWriter — This is version 1.5, a recent upgrade of one of the best text editor DAs available.

Periodic Chart DA — This is a very nicely done DA. Those of you with any interest in chemistry will probably use this DA periodically. It's also sure to go to the top of the charts for anyone in elementary school.

Public Folder — Free from Claris (don't faint) is this RDEV (a chooser document) that allows anyone to make files and folders of files available to other users attached to an AppleTalk network.

Tappy Type — This application (a cdev) comes under the heading of useless tricks. It is, however, amusing to hear your Mac imitate a typewriter. The SoundMaster cdev can do a similar trick but much less realistically.

Two SCSI Accelerators — For users of a Mac Plus there are two SCSI accelerators that accomplish the same task via different methods.

Virus Rx — This is the latest

release of Apple's antiviral application.

WindowShade — Another window enhancement utility, this is a cdev. Double click anywhere on the title bar of a window and the lower part of the window will roll up beneath the title bar. Double click on the title bar again to return the window to its

original size. It is *soooo* cute!

When you care enough to send the very best

The bonus this month is a disk full of my choices for Mac shareware of the year. I feel that I have a right to be the judge of this. Remember, kids, I've seen a lot of this stuff. **The Best of 1989** contains newly-released versions of six items, most of which were included (as earlier versions)

on disks of the month sometime this year. This is the cream of the crop in a year's bumper harvest that included such wonders as (original or upgraded editions) Moose, SoundMas-

"The Best of 1989" contains newly-released versions of six items...

ter, Chime, FreshStart, HierDA, various window enhancers, Moire cdevs, Mac Envy, Window cdev, and SCSI Probe, to mention a few. **The Best of 1989** are:

Black Box — My choice as the best of the best, Black Box can rightfully be called a revolutionary product. An INIT only 34K in size, it replaces several other well-known utilities, so if you're short on disk space and RAM, you'll love this. It adds a NeXT-like task strip to your window so you can append frequently used applications and DAs for easy booting, similar to OnCue™. It has an analog/digital clock (like SuperClock), a stars screen saver (derived from the popular *Stars 1.8*), a screen capture/printer (with menus down), automatic curly quotes, a window browser, and much more. You cannot really appreciate the brilliance of this program until you've explored its many features. Congratulations to author Andrew Welch! (*See Tom's interview with Andrew on next page.*)

Boomerang 2.0b9 — A highly useful file/folder navigation utility, this INIT/cdev is indispensable if you travel through many folders or disks as you work. It automatically remembers folders and files opened or saved with the SF Dialog. It lets you move among files, folders, and disks via convenient pop-up menus, command keys or a search feature. Although still in beta form, this version is stable and virtually bug-free. (Author: Hiro Yamamoto)

Easy Envelopes Plus — This popular DA has been around a long time, but it remains one of the best envelope programs

...one comes to appreciate the good stuff and to recognize very quickly the junk. I have developed a very quick trigger finger for trashing anything that even hints at instability.

available. Among other things, this new version adds new online help features and new documentation that is terrific. A shareware price of only \$15 is outrageously low, compared to some other envelope DA's that go anywhere from \$50 to \$125 now. (Author: Andrew Welch)

DOCMaker — Formerly called the DOCTer, this version has been renamed and upgraded. It is the easiest to use of the shareware applications that make stand-alone documents. It incorporates graphics and text into an attractive and intuitive end product that doesn't require a lot of disk space. When you need to create a stand-alone document, this is the way to go. (Author: Mark Wall)

Flash Write 1.1 — This is one of the most elegant, easy to use and powerful text editors available from any source. An INIT/cdev, it is accessed via a hot-key no matter what other application you are running. Its many features include 10 notepad-like pages, a clipboard mode for editing, full support of menu commands and the SF dialog, import and export, printing, searches, and MultiFinder compatibility. (Author: Andrew Welch)

ZTerm — ZTerm is the most important, trend-setting telecommunication application to hit the shareware market since Red Ryder. Now, all of the commercial telecomm packages are scrambling to catch up. This is still a beta version that is frequently upgraded. Careful reading of the documentation is mandatory but the program is relatively easy to use. (Author: David Alverson)

Congratulations to all of the authors of these programs. Remember to send in your shareware fees... with the holidays coming, we need to keep folks with such terrific talent working for us!

Here's another reason to send in shareware fees: Egghead Discount Software has stated in its corporate policies that it will not carry commercial products that are priced at less than \$50 because "they just don't sell enough to make a profit." This does not bode well for those of us who believe that most commercial software products are overpriced just so that they can compete on a snob-appeal basis. You know, "if it costs this much, it's got to be good!" One way to fight this trend is to support, vocally and financially, shareware authors. Ed.

Portrait of the artist as a young programmer:

An interview with the shareware author of the decade

by Tom Pitts

This year ends the first decade of the Macintosh computer. Actually, the Mac has only been around since 1984 but let's not be picky. We've witnessed a tremendous evolution in Macintosh hardware and software. Non-commercial software products (shareware, etc.) have matured from simple and quite often inane devices into useful and, on occasion, elegant applications.

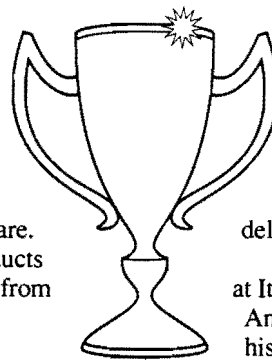
Do you remember the fascination produced by a fish swimming across the Mac's screen or by a ball bouncing in a three dimensional view? These free or low-priced thrillers of yesterday seem almost trite today. We should not forget, however, the benefits we've received from well-written Mac shareware. Indeed, the names of such shareware programmers as

Raymond Lau (Stuffit), Scott Watson (Red Ryder), Don Brown (MockPack-age), Duane Blehm (StuntCopter), Andrew Welch (Flash Write), Jeff Shulman (Virus

Detective), Steve Christensen (Super-Clock!... all 300 versions of it), Steve Brecher (Repair, PowerStation, Suitcase, Pyro) are now familiar to us all. Most of the above-mentioned have gone on to become commercial entities as well.

May I have the envelope

There is no "best" shareware author, for each has made a contribution in a unique way. However, here at MacValley, we have taken a little straw poll of our members to see if there is any sort of consensus of opinion on who is the pre-eminent shareware author out there. In consideration of the quantity, quality, utility, attitude, and ease of use of his



shareware products, MacValley names **Andrew Welch** as "Mac Shareware Author of the Decade." To discover a little more about Mr. Welch, we recently caught up with him for what turned out to be a delightful, yet revealing, chat.

A nineteen year old sophomore at Ithaca College in New York, Andrew, or Andy as he is called by his friends, is nothing like the stereotypical "computer nerd." You

know the type: taped, broken, black horn-rimmed glasses, leaky ink pens stuffed into the pocket-protector of a red and green plaid shirt, etc. Nothing like that here! Andy is equally at home at the keyboard of his Mac as he is traveling the globe. His adventures include visits to the wilderness of Africa and to strife-ridden Columbia. Andy can also be found scuba diving in the

Caribbean, water skiing, or relaxing with close friends after a big day skiing the snowy slopes of Vermont's Green Mountains. So diverse are his talents that

So diverse are his talents that Andy has yet to select a college major...

Andy has yet to select a college major, despite the alacrity he would surely exhibit in some area of computer science. "I haven't decided on a major yet. There are plenty of other things I'm interested in, too," he explains.

"It followed me home... can I keep it? Please?"

It is a stroke of good fortune for all of us that he discovered the Mac. Andy's mother brought a Mac home one day. "It was an old 512K Mac, the original beige one," he recalls. "I used it to play games and do papers." Next, he bought a modem and discovered the heady world of Mac

continued on next page

Pitts honors Welch for his grape software

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shareware available on electronic bulletin boards. He realized that writing shareware might be a way to earn money while developing his computer skills.

"I had no programming experience whatsoever. The first thing I did was design some fonts." In fact, he produced about twenty fonts. He saw a need to package his fonts in a shell to make them more attractive and insure the distribution of each as a complete package. This required him to develop programming skills

"The first [language] I got was TML PASCAL. That was not really a good thing to start with but I learned it pretty well." This was done without the benefit of the multi-volume *Inside Macintosh*. "I had a preliminary, pre-release version [that looked] like a phone book." Later, without the benefit of formal classes, he learned Lightspeed C™. He now programs in both languages although C has become his favorite.

First fruits of font fantasies

Among his font creations, *Palencia* and *Alderney* were his most popular and were early shareware successes. They are contained in an attractive shell that includes informative and detailed documentation. To this date, they remain two of the best ImageWriter fonts available. Not surprisingly, their design was a slow, painstaking task. Andy examined the type books at the office of his father, a corporate publicist, and adapted the features of the various types that he found attractive. He produced his final product by meticulously editing the fonts on screen and examining the printer results.

As Andy's programming skills developed, many useful applications appeared. *Easy Envelopes Plus*, written on his 512 K Mac, achieved immediate success and remains popular today, after many revisions. *Memoir* and *To Do* were well received DA's. *Document Builder* is a good application used to produce stand-alone documents. His most recent products, *Flash Write*, a text editor cdev, and *Black Box*, a system enhancement INIT with stylistic ties to the NeXT computer, have received considerable media attention.

Utility is a constant feature of Andy's software. Although ideas may come from many sources, often, as the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. "I designed ... [Palencia and Alderney] ... for myself because I didn't have any type faces that I really liked, that looked as good as the printer could make them. I took a lot of time. I use those myself." Easy Envelope was conceived because a relative wanted an envelope program and Document Builder was necessary to distribute his shareware documentation.

One of his most useful programs is Flash Write, a text editor that is activated with a command key rather than from the Apple menu. "A lot of the stuff that I design ... [is for my] need using the computer. I don't even want to think about it. Just hit a key and it pops up [or] gets out of your way. I've tried to make ... [my software] ... as easy as possible to use but still powerful. I think the best programs are extremely powerful but the user doesn't even know about it. They are simple ... [to use]."

The check is in the mail

Does writing shareware provide a good income? "Things have actually gone pretty well because, obviously, the products have to be good." And the packaging and presentation of the software has to be good also, he feels. Unlike many authors, Andy releases all of his software in fully functional form. The business of upgrading users' software would require too much time. "To be honest, [that would be] more of a hassle than anything else. I like the idea of it being completely on the honor system. I like the idea that the people who are sending me checks didn't have to."

Shareware income has limitations. "I'm not going to get rich." But it helps with college expenses. "It's nice because I can do this and learn as well as make a living while I'm learning." Other benefits have accrued, however. "It's also been a stepping stone to do some commercial work." Thus, Andy wrote and recently upgraded DataBase™, a popular commer-

cial database program in both desk accessory and application form. Royalties from that project paid for his Mac II. Andy currently has on hand contracts that may make the next version of Black Box a commercial venture. Indeed, the new, unreleased version that he now has running on his computer could make him rich. He says, "There may be a commercial off-spring of [it]. There are a couple of issues to be solved. In the very near future there's going to be a super shareware release or there's going to be a commercial release."

"Well, alright, I think my favorite would be Black Box because it added to the system a lot of the things I've always wanted to have."

Holy C++, Batman! What's NeXT for the boy wonder

Just what does tomorrow hold for Andrew Welch? There's surely a NeXT computer in his future. With it will come a new programming environ-

ment with new challenges. "Up until a year or so ago I didn't even have a Mac II. I had a beige Mac 512K. Right now I'm interested in getting a NeXT computer; as a matter of fact. I really like it. I just like the way that the computer works. Plus, I also want to learn to program on it because of the style, the completely object-oriented programming, it seems to me that's the way that everything is going to be done in the future. You can't do that on the Mac as well. I haven't had the time to try to learn that." When will he get his NeXT computer? "Well, I haven't had the money. Tell everybody to send in their shareware fees!"

Andy's products are so diverse he has a difficult time choosing his favorite. "It would be hard to pick out a favorite because they all fulfill niches." When pressed for an answer, however, he replied, "Well, alright, I think my favorite would be Black Box because it added to the system a lot of the things I've always wanted to have."

Who does Andy feel has been the shareware writer of the decade? "Hmm," he replies thoughtfully, "That's a good question. I would probably say Don Brown. He's one of the original shareware authors. From that he started a full-fledged commercial company that succeeded extremely well." Perhaps his career will

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BULK PURCHASE

Les Mannos

Deals to dole out at December's decade end

(Editor's note: this is a reprise of November's article in case you are a new member or want/need to be reminded of the great deals we have.)

We finally have gotten around to making good on our April 89 promise. We have an upgrade path available for all of our members who own a 128K, 512K or 512Ke, and it's a doozie! There is a new board available from Newbridge Systems which is a great way to upgrade an older Mac.

In the past there were two ways to upgrade an older machine to Mac Plus functionality. The first was a Dove type add-on board. The problem with this type is you were then locked into Dove for a memory increase. Worse, after you reached 2 MB of memory the board became non upgradable, and you had to pull the whole thing out and scrap it.

This leads to the second type of upgrade. The one from Apple, which gives you an almost normal Mac Plus. (A few logo's are missing and you have the older power supply.) The advantage of this path is you get the 4 normal SIMM sockets, and can increase your memory from 1 to 4 MB without having to scrap your whole previous investment. The problem is that the cost of this path has always been rather

prohibitive.

Enter MacValley to the rescue! We are now offering an upgrade which has the best of both worlds, low cost and normal SIMM sockets. Let's assume you have a 512Ke. This Mac with the addition of the new board is ready to go with 1 MB of RAM and the SCSI port (required for most hard disks), at a cost of just \$320 installed.

Now if you have a 128K or a 512K there is a little more that needs to be done. To start with, the internal floppy needs to be changed from a 400K to 800K drive. The ROM's (Read Only Memory) must also be upgraded to the Mac Plus ROM's. This adds another \$279 to the cost of the conversion, but at a total of \$599 it is still much less than the full Apple path.

So first come first served, we've ordered ten of the upgrade kits at this quantity price, and depending on how they go, we may or may not order more of them.

Again some of the prices of our regular items below have been changed, so you might want to take another look:

- Sony Floppy diskettes at \$15.00/Box.

- Or Bulk generic at \$0.59/Ea in lots of 25 minimum.

- Low noise fans for Mac Plus or SE at \$29.95

- Re-inked imagewriter ribbons at \$1.50/Ea, New at \$4.00

- 2400 baud external modems with cable at \$115.00

- Phonetalk compatible cables and connectors at \$20.00

- Laser Printer output at \$0.50 - \$0.75/ sheet depending on location.

- 1 MB RAM SIMM modules 80 NS low profile at \$109.00/Ea

- Radius accelerators & large screen monitors \$650.00 and up

- Hard to find Mac clock batteries at \$3.00/Ea

- The latest Apple System software (4 disk set) at \$6.00/Set

- Nutmeg Full page Displays \$899.00, or Two pages for \$1,250.00

- Tops network software at \$150.00/Ea

- Mouse Pads at \$5.00/Ea, and cleaning kits at \$10.00/Ea

- Laserwriter Paper at \$5.00/ream of 500 sheets.

- Imagewriter fanfold paper, 2500 sheet \$26.00/Box

- Mastering the Macintosh Manual \$2.00

- Mac internal (Sony) floppy drive repairs \$100.00. All other maker floppy drive repairs \$85.00

- Mac External floppy drives \$149.00

- Pagemaker software \$345.00

- Mac power supply upgrade/repairs \$85.00

Some of these items are available at the monthly meeting. For other items or more information call Les at (818) 841-5766 before 5 p.m.

Forget the basics and concentrate on a real language

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parallel that of Don Brown's. The response to that thought comes amid a hearty chuckle. "I'm thinking about graduating from college first, hopefully. I enjoy writing; I enjoy a lot of things. I really don't know what I want to do."

Programming is a difficult project for many. Not everyone can expect to teach him or herself even one language. Andy's advice for beginners is to learn object-oriented programming. Forget BASIC, he says, because there is too much to unlearn as you progress to PASCAL and C. And, if all else fails, go ahead and take a course. (After all, not all of us are an Andrew Welch!)

The future's so bright, he's gotta wear shades

In a decade of Mac artists, Andrew Welch stands alone. A Leonardo of the Macintosh, perhaps? No, not yet; he's too young to bear such a label. But wait. This personable young man has a future that knows no bounds. We'll hear a lot more from Andy for sure. He vowed not to abandon Mac programming when he gets his NeXT computer. He's even promised to write something for the *Voice*. So remember, when you send in those shareware fees to folks like Andy, you're investing not only in a single program but also in the future of all Mac shareware. Then you can truly say, "I knew him when..."



David Lagerson

Things to do, places to go, people to thank

With the arrival of another December, I get to do my annual "State Of The Group" article. The real problem is two fold: first, there are so many people doing so many things that I may forget someone; if I do, please forgive me. Second, the other problem is that I actually have to say something nice about Tom Pitts. I will try.

Where are we now that we were not a year ago?

First, the meeting place. After more than a year of trying and hours of friendly discussions at board meetings, we were finally able to move into a facility worthy of a group the size and stature of MacValley. Some board members feared we would lose our core membership by leaving the womb of Burbank High School, the gloomy cafeteria of which had been our sainted home for lo those many years. Of course, when the high school told us on a Friday that the next Tuesday's meeting would be our last one there, the question whether to move or not became moot. Through the timely work of Jerry Hastings, we found an available Parks and Recreation building big enough to meet our needs. The Wilkinson Senior Center facilities are first rate and the attendance has been as large as ever. I would guess

membership hasn't suffered, though the current crop of Burbank High School students will continue to do so, especially in summer. Let's hear it for progress!

And among the most significant changes, though least apparent to the group in general, is MacValley's new status as a non-profit corporation. A very important step which would not have been possible without the fine work of Mr. Mark Lamken, who has also joined our board.

After what has seemed like eons, we finally have a usable, modern, up-to-date public domain library. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of people like Dr. Tom Pitts, and others who could actually see a counter top without the aid of a ladder, we now have one of the most coherent, well organized public domain libraries anywhere. Since access to a public domain library is one reason that people join a user group, our library is an important asset. It pains me to say anything nice about Tom, but I have no choice. I hope it doesn't go to his head.

The year saw the departure of Linda Spalding, an editor of grit and stature who made *The MacValley Voice* one of the premier user group publications in the nation. Without Ken Gruberman and Marty Safir, the *Voice* might have died, but the two stepped in and filled Linda's shoes

(well, almost... Ken didn't fit, but Marty looks good in the pumps). With a new format and a lot of work, they have further increased the quality of *The Voice*. (I may have lost out on the shoes, but I'm still working on the dress! Ed.)

When Anna Marie succumbed to the pressures of making a living, Shirley Ulling took over as treasurer. She has joined our merry band, and the Board of Directors and treasurer's reports have

never looked better. She is always there with Norman and Peter and the rest at the back table making sure that everything is accounted for. (Something about a preposition at the end of a sentence brings to mind Winston Churchill's quote, "A preposition

at the end of a sentence is something up with which I will not put.")

David Willis, who has produced all the publicity flyers and the mailing labels for the *Voice*, has finally been forced, like Anna Marie, to get on with the rest of his life. Sam Anderson, formerly Mr. Egghead and currently Mr. Prodigy, has volunteered to take over the necessary publicity work.

Some things change, some things remain the same. Or, to quote Joyce Davenport to a scum-licking mob lawyer, "Some people evolve and some just mutate!" (I miss her. Even though I have McMurphy and Hope as TV roll models for Megan, I still miss her and The Pizza Man).

Anyway, among those who get better and better is Peter Breitner. He has made the job of volunteer coordinator function. For years we tried to use those people who wanted to help the group, but it wasn't until Peter that we had someone who could do the job, and do it right.

Among the most critical jobs in MacValley is getting the *Voice* into the mail, a job fraught with danger and suspense. Before Bob Frankwick, it was a monthly evening of chaos. Never very efficient and often close to disaster, a small group of volunteers would gather to get the *Voice* out. Since Frankwick took over the job, the *Voice* always goes out on time. And he does it cheaper than we ever did before. A great continuing effort.

Helen Lippman works hard for the board as recording secretary and continues to be one of my favorite people. Norman and Dotty are always there too. Arnold, who created the MacAdemy, remains responsible for everything related to MacAdemy, as well as keeping us all in the latest system software way before anyone else.

Just a note about the organization in general. MacValley has become a large, diverse collection of individuals connected by their Macs and the once-a-month meetings. It is amazing that so many members work so hard for so long attending board meetings and general meetings, volunteering considerable knowledge and training to others. They accept phone calls and offer help at all hours of the day and night for nothing more than the satisfaction of knowing they saved someone from a small disaster. That we only lose a few people due to job needs, stress, house

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moves, or any other of a vast number of life's possibilities, is remarkable.

And a personal note of appreciation. Being MacValley President continues to get easier and easier with so much of the work done by others. I get so much undeserved credit and I feel very lucky to have the help and support of all the members throughout the year. Aside from that, I owe a great deal to my parents, my friends, and especially, the ever-so-lovely Mrs. Prez for all the support I have received personally and professionally. I couldn't have done it without you.

As for the changes coming in 1990. I've had a number of requests to renew the question and answer period at the start of each meeting. My sense is that it should again become a valuable part of every meeting. Considering Mr. Benti's article and the comments I have received, I know that a number of you remain quiet for fear of being embarrassed. With me up front, who would notice if you did something silly anyway?

There are misconceptions about the average experience level of the group. I know most of you aren't power users. Few have Mac IIcx's. Most have never created an Excel Macro and do quite well with just a Mac Plus and an ImageWriter. Most of you don't use ResEdit; I don't even use ResEdit! As a matter of fact, I don't use PageMaker only because *Ready, Set Go!* was so much easier for me to learn. So there.

While I use my Mac more and know more answers than most of you (that's why I'm Mr. Hotline...and you're not), even power users don't know all the answers all the time. When we don't know, we get just as embarrassed as the rest of you and feel just as humble. Of course when it comes to looking foolish, I operate so close to the edge most of the time that it no longer scares me to admit I have stepped over the edge.

For those who are afraid of looking foolish in front of others, I'll tell you a story. I was at a party at Bill Enright's house a year before he died. Bill had 2 MA's by the time he was 25 and knew a number of influential people who were equally as bright and as educated. I told Bill that I felt overwhelmed by the people at the

party because everyone there had MA's and Ph.D.'s and I just had my 2 BA's. I admitted that I was embarrassed at how insignificant I felt in their presence. But Bill told me those other people were amazed at how much I knew about 17th and 18th European history. Imagine that — I had impressed the people who had impressed me.

Well, I learned something from that.

I operate so close to the edge most of the time that it no longer scares me

Every person knows something better than someone else. And everyone at first feels lost because they think everyone else at the table understands all the buzz words and

knows all the inside stuff. It makes everyone uncomfortable to admit that part of themselves, to expose their frailties to the rest of the world.

However, if you never ask, you'll never know. And, maybe more importantly, neither will anyone else. You almost have a

responsibility to ask questions about what you don't know because there are always others who also don't know, but can't bring themselves to ask.

So I'm counting on you out there to start asking questions at the meetings. How else can the newcomers to the glorious land of Mac feel safe about asking questions concerning how to hook up a printer, or what the "this document can't be opened because the application is busy or missing" dialog box really means?

The 90's will soon be upon us. What they'll bring is anyone's guess. Will we have neural Mac implants 10 years from now with global network tie-ins? Will high performance Macintosh hardware finally be affordable to anyone other than people with endowments, grants or rich relatives? It is anyone's guess, but this much I know: we'll still be here, helping people to understand it all, helping them to use the new technologies to make their lives more human, helping them to have "The Power to Be Their Best." And so it goes.

ATM not so letter-perfect

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PostScript printer and all Adobe PostScript language fonts, including those from the Adobe Type Library."

But apparently not from any of Adobe's major competitors in the font game. Several users have reported problems, including system crashes, when using the new Type 1 (Adobe PostScript-compatible) fonts from Bitstream, and Type 3 fonts, created with Altsys Corporation's enormously popular *Fontographer* program, don't work at all.

One other problem not mentioned in the ads, but mentioned in ATM's documentation, concerns what styles and point sizes need to be installed. The instructions tell you something to the effect that you can save valuable disk space because ATM only requires the roman (plain) 10 and 12 point sizes of a font in order to operate. This is basically true, but a thorough reading of the manual reveals the whole truth. By the time you finish reading it, you will have been told, in two different places, that if you want the most *accurate* portrayal of fonts on the screen (and who doesn't?) you'll need all the styles, i. e., italic, bold and bold italic of both the

screen fonts and printer fonts, installed, as well as a full complement of point sizes for programs that don't fully support fractional widths. Bye-bye disk-space savings.

Just to be contentious, I tried using ATM with just the "Roman," or plain 10 and 12 point sizes of a font installed, then with 10 and 12 point Roman, Bold, Italic, and Bold Italic installed, then with the full size and style range installed. The results confirmed my suspicions: for once, Adobe was telling the truth. With just the 10 and 12 point sizes installed, odd sizes of fonts tended to look distorted, although they lined up correctly at the ends of lines. Bold-facing a word looked almost surreal. With the extra 3 styles in place, bolding or italicizing a word looked... interesting. Not accurate, but interesting.

Further experimentation reveals that it helps to have all the available sizes of screen fonts installed as well. That is to say, it is actually better to use the 18 point size of a font than to let ATM draw it! Try it with Palatino. Why does a lower-case 's' look like the numeral '8' when using ATM?

I have left my fonts intact.

Also, the ATM ads, in all their incarnations, only show letters and words

continued on next page

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Membership Dues are \$30/year. Send your name, address, phone number and check or money order to:

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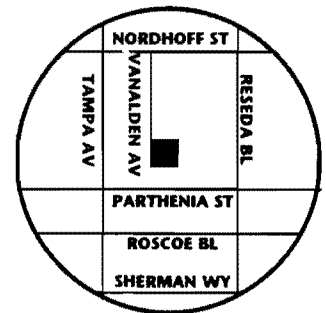
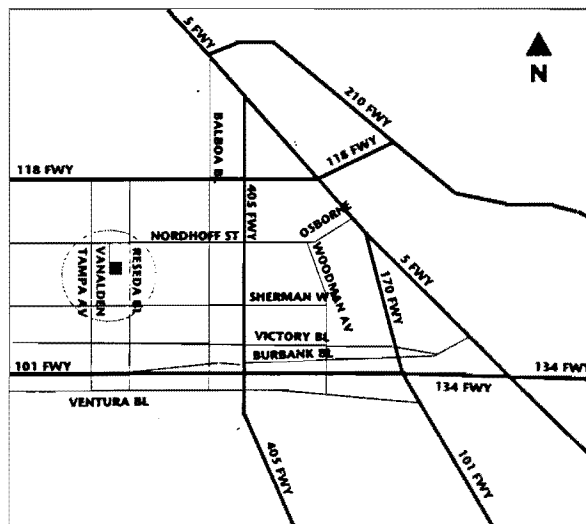
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